

“The Parables of Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes”

Pastor Dan’s Brown Bag Bible Study Is Back!

On Thursdays at 12:30 beginning September 28th, hear the parables of Jesus as his disciples, the crowds and the religious authorities heard them. Step back in time and see Jesus through 1st century Middle Eastern eyes. Discover amazing new insights and perspectives on some of history’s most famous stories!

Pastor Dan is offering this 10-week course beginning September 28th. The format is casual lecture and discussion. There are no books to buy, and the only assignments are to read and contemplate the assigned parable before each class. Bring your lunch and we will break bread and learn together.

Because each week tackles a different parable, missing one or two weeks will not put you behind for the next class or, pick your favorite parables and attend then. A sign-up sheet is on the glass table in the back of the sanctuary.

- ❑ 9/28 The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10: 25-37
- ❑ 10/5 The Parable of the Rich Fool – Luke 12: 13-21
- ❑ 10/12 The Parable of the Great Banquet – Luke 14: 15-24
- ❑ 10/26 The Parable of the Unjust Steward – Luke 16: 1-8
- ❑ 11/9 The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18: 9-14
- ❑ 11/16 The Parable of the Compassionate Employer – Matthew 20: 1-6
- ❑ 11/30 The Parable of the Serving Master – Luke 12: 35-38
- ❑ 12/7 The Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man – Luke 16: 19-30
- ❑ 12/14 The Parable of the Pounds – Luke 19: 11-27
- ❑ 12/21 The Parable of the Noble Vineyard Owner and His Son– Luke 20: 9-18

Sunday, December 17th, 2023
Third Sunday in Advent
10:30 AM



Mary, Mother Of Jesus

**First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Rev. Dan McKenty**

“Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary”

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**Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon
Tuesday - Friday**

Liturgy for Sunday, December 17th, 2023

Third Sunday in Advent

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: Psalm 126

"When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Ringling of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (responsive)

Elder Bill Owens

The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted.

We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

The Promised One of God proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn and gives a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, holding fast to what is good, we are witnesses to the light of Christ! Amen!

Prelude

Choral Introit "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

* Hymn "What Child Is This" # 137

* Passing the Peace

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Current Prayer Concerns:

Owen (grandson of Kris Holmes, friend of Carol Reese), Thomas Simpson, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Joyce & Jack Vavrek, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Marie McCallister, Betty Ignash, Tom Taylor, Lake Scott, Bryan Wayne-Records, Debbie Kelly, Algernon John-Baptiste, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Margie Baugher Cramer, Mark Payne, Beth Miller, and Baby Owen.

Those homebound or undergoing treatment:

John Snyder and Marie McCallister (Marty Cropper's sister)

Berlin Nursing Home: For all those who we are unable to visit or sing with.

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Dec 17	Jan Owens & Peggy Webster
Dec 31	Peggy Webster & Nancy Wright
Jan 7	Lisa Bayles & Jonelle Jones
Jan 14	Dawn Butler & Sue Latour
Jan 21	Vicki Cairns & Jan Owens

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting for the First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City will be held on

Sunday, January 14th

immediately following our Lord's Day Worship Service. Nomination Forms for the positions of Elder and Deacon, are still available on the glass table at the back of the sanctuary.

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Tues	Dec	19	Mobile Showers	9:30	AM
Tues	Dec	19	W.O.W Christmas Party	11:00	AM
Wed	Dec	20	Choir Practice	6:00	PM
Thu	Dec	21	Brown Bag Bible Study	12:30	PM
Fri	Dec	22	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00	PM
Sun	Dec	24	No Morning Service		
Sun	Dec	24	Christmas Eve Service	6:00	PM

Birthdays *Marty Cropper (12/16)*

Flowers: *Large White poinsettias are given in memory of:*

~ James B. Thaxter, Jr., given lovingly by Bill and Jan Owens and their daughters, Chris, Jessie, Joellen, and Micheal Anne

~ Our children Greg Dypsky and Sharon Sauer and their spouses, Lisa and Jeff and our two grandsons Nathan and Ryan and their spouses Shelby and Shannon. God has richly blessed us.

- Cliff and Sarah Dypsky

~ A basket is in memory of our wife and sister Sue Mumford Foster, as she celebrates the 9th anniversary of her rebirth in Heaven on December 16th with our Lord and Savior and Irv and Juanita and our grandparents; and also in memory of our grandparents, Rudolph Feldmann and Sophia Ackerman Feldmann Fogle, as they celebrate their birthdays, Rudy's 123rd on December 12th and Sophie's 118th on December 13th.

- From Bob Foster, David and Julie, Danny and Liz

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (responsive)

Deacons Mary Snyder and Jan Phillips

Reader 1: O God, we light the third candle of Advent.

Reader 2: We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary. Fill us with your grace and light.

Reader 1: Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God's voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden. Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God's beckoning to us as well.

People: Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Merciful God, you love justice; why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing and every form of evil?

You have given us the gift of your Spirit; why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us?

You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word himself; why, then, do we despise and ignore what we have heard from you?

You have sent the light into the world; why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light?

Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your garden until righteousness and praise spring up, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us! Even if we have gone out in tears,

God brings us home shouting for joy.

Thanks be to God: we are forgiven!

* Gloria Patri (unison)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Let us meditate again on the mystery of God in Jesus Christ. Let us behold the majesty of the incarnation. Let us come with songs of praise and with gifts for God's good kingdom.

* Doxology (unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly Hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God,
Take these our gifts we bring with humility
and turn them to a powerful force for the good of your kingdom.
Turn our gifts into good news for the poor, sight for the blind,
liberation for the oppressed, and release for the captives.
These things we pray in the name of the One who makes all things new. Amen.

Moment for Mission – Elder Marty Cropper

Choral Anthem "Wayfaring Stranger"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Holy One,
giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed,
illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Luke 1: 34-38 [NRSV]

Elder Nancy Wright

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Congregation Financials as of November 30, 2023:

Year-to-date **giving/income** (\$142,356.00 from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$208,283.82

Year-to-date **disbursements** (includes \$20,000 for replacement windows at the Manse): \$218,217.17

Fellowship Christmas Tree

We will be collecting gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and long underwear to 'decorate' our Christmas Tree in Fellowship Hall. All donated items will go to Samaritan's Shelter in Pocomoke. Your choice on size/gender. All will be appreciated.

Advent Reading Challenge

The WOW ladies are challenging the congregation to join them in reading the Bible during Advent. Starting on December 1st, read a chapter in the Gospel of Luke every day until Christmas. Luke has 24 chapters so that by Christmas, you will have followed Jesus' birth, teaching, death, and resurrection - all in time for Christmas Day!

Household Prayer: Morning

Expectant God,

Mary sings because she has new life in her,
the promise of your salvation.

Fill me with hope this day

as I lift my life to you and seek to do your will.

Look with favor on our world and all who are in need,
that your love may be magnified as I follow humbly in your way.

Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, as I come to you seeking rest this night,

I pray that all may find a home in you,

be disturbed by no one,

and be free of the afflictions of the evil one,

for you, O God, are mighty to save. Amen.

FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry is being utilized by many this fall and winter. If you are able, please consider picking up some of the below items to help us restock:

Tuna Cans

Fruit & Granola Bars

Fruit Snacks

Fruit Cups

Deodorant

Toothbrushes & Toothpaste

Soap

Disposable razors & shaving cream

Thank you for your compassion and generosity!

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 1: 39-55 [NIV]

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³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

Time with Children & Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary"

Rev. Dan McKenty

*** Hymn "Hark the Herald Angles Sing" # 133**

***Affirmation of Faith – Apostles' Creed** (unison)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting, Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (unison)

God who restores,
you have done great things for us and we rejoice!
So often you have filled us with laughter,
even turning tears of sadness into shouts of joy.
You send prophets, who point the way to justice
and show the way to you.

We thank you for sending good news to us
and repairing so much that we have devastated.
In this season of light,
we lift up in prayer so many who wait in darkness:
people oppressed by poverty and discrimination,
by political upheaval or dangerous rulers;
people imprisoned wrongly
and also those imprisoned justly.

Right what is wrong among us and in us
and restore us to you,
to others,
to ourselves.

In all the jostling and jingling of these days,
do not let us lose sight of you
or those whom you especially came to serve:
people who are in need of healing,

people who are overlooked or underserved,
the ones who are lost,
and the ones we have made to feel little and least. And we
pray for

Light of the world, live among us always, full of grace and truth. This prayer we pray like the One who taught us to pray and we say, **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*** Hymn "Joy to the World" # 125**

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response "Six-Fold Amen"

Christmas Eve Service

On Sunday, December 24th
at 6:00 PM, we will hold our

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

**There will not be a
service Sunday morning**